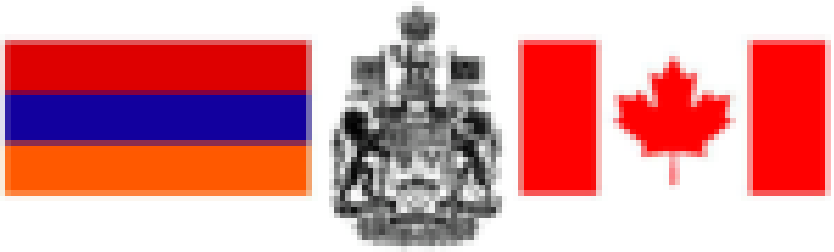
"THE RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION...MUST BE ENSURED"

Posted on November 12, 2020 by Keghart

Category: Opinions



12 November 2020

Statement on cessation of fighting in Artsakh / Nagorno-Karabakh:

The Canada-Armenia Parliamentary Friendship Group has read the agreement that has been reached between Armenia, Russia, and Azerbaijan concerning an immediate ceasefire.

Canadian and our international partners will continue to monitor the actions of Azerbaijan and Turkey in the coming months as this ceasefire continues. However, the rhetoric and violence must end immediately.

Canada expects that the ceasefire will be respected and upheld. The aggression and hostility shown in this fighting is unconscionable, and human rights violations and atrocities against civilians must be investigated and those responsible held accountable.

Although terms are still under review, the fighting has ceased which is something responsible parties have been seeking for weeks. Ultimately, this agreement accomplishes very little in dealing with the issues. It will only be seen as legitimate if it is reviewed, monitored, and maintained with the full participation of the OSCE Minsk Group. It is clear to the global community that this agreement was written outside of the Minsk Group framework.

The safety and security of the civilian population is critical and the right to self-determination for the Armenian people must be ensured. Canada will continue to support Armenia, their democratic government, and stand with them in solidarity.

Kind regards,

Bryan May, MP
Chair, Canada-Armenia Parliamentary Friendship Group

Comments

Lusine Nalbandyan – 2020-11-17 02:59:34
.... "Self-determination" is a powerful word, it must be circulated over and over... We should remind the world that Artsakh people have had a referendum to separate from Azerbaijan and join Armenia in 1988. Democracy has been practiced on Artsakh land long before any ex-Soviet Republic. De facto Artsakh has been part of Armenia for last 30 years. Artsakh has an elected government, Artsakh citizens carry Armenian passports, Armenian kids serve in Artsakh army. We are so slow to make it official!

Dikran – 2020-11-13 02:57:07
You may skip the first four paragraphs of MP Bryan May's statement. The gist of what he says is in the first sentence of the last paragraph. He talks about "safety of civilian population". It's not clear which population he refers to. Is it Armenia's, Artsakh's or Azerbaijan's? May knows very well it was Artsakh's citizens who were threatened and even with the present set-up they are fearful of the presence of next door Azeris. Why doesn't he spell it out? He continues, "the right to self-determination for the Armenian people must be ensured." Are we talking about Armenia or Artsakh? If it is about Artsakh why he doesn't say so? All along Armenians were calling and continue to call for self-determination of Artsakh. "Armenian people" implies also Armenia. Does May refer to Armenia which already is a sovereign independent country? Should we understand that Armenia's independence is threatened? By whom? At present the only effective force around is the Russian contingency, which is there ostensibly to protect and not intimidate or at worst threaten. All in all this is diplomatic gibberish which says nothing beyond banality. Put it in the garbage.